Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 4, line 5 and carries over to Page 5, line 3 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- Management services which enable businesses and individuals to manage the resources installed on their computing devices (and similarly, which allow retrieval of information about resources of computing devices, and performing other jobs for or by such devices) are commercially available. Organizations referred to as "service providers" provide this type of management service to networked customers. Service providers include Internet Service Providers ("ISPs"), Application Service Providers ("ASPs"), telephone companies, and others. Software products that perform this resource management function are also commercially available. An example is the Tivoli® Personalized Services Manager ("TPSM") product from Tivoli Systems. ("Tivoli" is a registered trademark of Tivoli Systems Inc.) TPSM includes a component known as Tivoli Services Manager ("TISM") and a component hereafter referred to as "Device Manager". Device Manager enables a service provider to manage thousands, or even millions, of devices effectively. Device Manager may also be used with a service provider's own subscriber software, rather than with TISM, and provides a number of features including: automatic provisioning and deployment; device configuration and software provisioning at first connection; and automated change management. Device Manager can also function without a subscription management system. (For more information on Device Manager, see the Device Manager Planning and Installation guide, which is available on CD-ROM from Tivoli Systems. For more information on TPSM, see "Introducing Tivoli Personalized Services Manager 1.1", IBM publication SG24-6031-00 ~~or see http://www.tivoli.com/products/index/~~

~~personalized_services_mgr on the Internet.)~~ --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 16, lines 5 - 12 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- Typically, a firewall 30 is located between the public network [[30]] 20 and the back-end network. Network dispatcher 40 may serve to route incoming client requests to a plurality of servers 50 on which a device management system such as TPSM operates. As is known in the art, multiple servers 50 may be provided for redundancy (to handle increased load, failover, and so forth). These servers 50 may access a database 60 or similar data repository which stores, *inter alia*, information about the devices being managed. One or more application servers 70 may also be connected to network dispatcher 40. The resources to be distributed may be stored on one or more data repositories (not shown) which are accessible to servers 50 and/or to servers 70. --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 29, lines 1 - 13 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- The present invention will now be contrasted with several prior art techniques for scheduling jobs. First, it is conceivable that a systems administrator might define sliding execution windows for jobs, where a different execution window is separately defined for various devices or subclasses of devices (or for each individual device) that may request this job in order to spread out the processing load. This manual approach does not scale well for systems in which the number of devices may run into the thousands or millions. It also may not easily

handle devices the management system is not aware of yet (such as a new device for an existing customer, devices from customers not yet enrolled in the device management system, and so forth), but which may become a member of a device class once it is [[know]] known to the management system. (The technique of the present invention, on the other hand, is easily adaptable to dynamically-added devices, as can be seen by inspection of the logic in Figs. 2 and 3.) A manual approach is also cumbersome and error-prone, and quickly becomes quite unwieldy as the number of jobs and the number of devices becomes large. --